

BOTANIC GARDENS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2019

Registered Charity Number
1164497

BOTANIC GARDENS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION **TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DEC 2019**

The Botanic Gardens Community Association Trust (incorporated) is registered with the Charity Commission (No 1164497) and constituted by Deed of Trust.

The Trustees who served during the year are as follows:-

David Cobham.	(d.cobham@sky.com)
John Dodd.	(mail@johndodd.co.uk)
Margaret Brown.	(Margaret.brown@rocketmail.com)
Ann Cobham.	(anncobham@hotmail.com)
Sandra Cain. *	(sandrajain@gmail.com)
Sally Crowther.*	(sally@cleverwebseo.com)
Clive Pickup.*	(clive.pickup@btinternet.com)
Gail Settle.	(botanic@madasafish.com)
Gary Mawdsley	(g.mawdsley@talktalk.com)
Alan Foxall.	
Joan Huyton.	

Trustees serve on a 3 year rotation basis and may stand for re-election.*

Objectives

1. To further or benefit the residents of Churchtown and surrounding areas, without distinction of sex, sexual orientation, race, or of political, religious or other opinions.
2. To provide facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation and leisure time occupation, with the objective of improving the conditions of life for the residents and visitors.
3. To promote for the benefit of the public at large the protection, preservation, care and maintenance of the Botanic Gardens Southport in co-operation with the local authority for recreational purposes to improve health and well-being.

Review of Activities and Achievements

The Botanic Gardens Community Association of volunteers was formed in 2012 to help the gardens to continue providing beautiful floral displays and other attractions which were in the process of being reduced, ended or closed by severe funding cuts.

This has been achieved via donations and a sponsorship scheme. Funding is obtained from local associations, business and individuals which enable us to source quality local plants which are designed, planted and maintained by our volunteers for dedicated Spring and Summer displays in the 5 large beds, over 40 hanging baskets and ornamental containers at the formal part of the park. The Botanic Nursery has now closed despite our great efforts to retain it, but the Volunteers have been allocated some greenhouse facilities to enable plants to be saved or nurtured out of season and, we also have a plant shop to bring in funds.

We carry out general tidying jobs and minor infrastructure work such as painting and bench restoration and have a team of litter pickers with a zero litter and dog fouling policy. We hold meetings with the Bat Society and Lancashire Trust Squirrel officer. Because of our previous success in carrying out all the above projects the Council has decided we take over on Lease the running of the parks nationally important 1875 Victorian Fernery voted number two in the UK about 6 years ago but suffering due to finance and labour cuts and seldom open. We are now connected with the British Pteridological Society who provide Ferns advice and work with us on a regular basis.

BOTANIC GARDENS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DEC 2019 (cont)

Non desirable plants etc are being removed and we are expertly planting many new species which have been gifted to us by the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh. A large van was hired and our project manager Sandra and Alison from the Fern Society did the 400 mile round trip to pick up the Ferns in a day, the aim is to be No1 Fernery attraction in the UK. The Fernery is now managed by BGCA on a rolling Lease.

We have renovated and taken over the running of the formally dank public toilet block, this has encouraged the return of many visitors and coach parties, especially school and special needs groups, a small entry charge funds these improvements.

We hold many fund raising events, and offer an historical and educational walk and talk to visiting parties. Over **35,000** volunteer hours were recorded 2014 to end 2019.

We work **52** weeks of the year and stage free events for the community throughout. The waste, and recycling depot is in the old Nursery area, and greenhouse run off water is saved in wells and tanks for watering use, we have a new composting area adjacent, we also look after the lake tidiness and keep an eye on its wildlife inhabitant's welfare. The former Nursery area is now a Community Activity Hub occupied by various organisations for the recreation of groups with Special health and education needs. As our name suggests we are an inclusive volunteer charitable organisation within the community for the community.

There are so many facets to the wonderful Botanic Gardens that suit all sections of the community, and we are always looking for ways to improve the visitor experience year on year, we continue to maintain a small Rose Garden in a former neglected area by the popular Aviary. A Victorian style Stumpery with Hostas and Ferns is being constructed.

We continue restoring Heather rockery areas on the "Mulberry" island and we asked 120 of our neighbouring Churchtown Year 2 Primary School pupils to help us plant 200 Lavenders as part of their Bee attracting project, they planted one each. The Botanic Gardens acts as a huge Nature classroom for all our local schools. Our aim is to do our utmost to keep the Botanic Gardens deserving of its "Jewel in the Crown" reputation and most importantly maintain its Gardens, Environmental, and Community spirited elements, so nearly lost for ever.

The BGCA were awarded a coveted **RHS National Certificate of Distinction** in 2016/19. RHS North West in Bloom awarded us a 6 years of **Outstanding** Certificate in 2019. We also entered in the RHS Parks category and gained a **Gold Medal** award in 2018/19. The BGCA were a main feature of the BBC 2 Britain in Bloom show March 28 2019. **In 2019 Awarded Silver Trophies for RHS Best in Category and Best Overall entry.**

Our Community Engagement has been attached to the National Curriculum.

1. Our neighbour Churchtown Primary School carries out projects with B.G.C.A.

2. Prestfield Secondary school and College Duke of Edinburgh students are creating a Bug Village and we will be involved when they are part of the College in September.

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TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DEC 2019 (cont)

3. Duke of Edinburgh Bronze award students from Meols Cop School Youth Club work in the Fernery on a regular basis.
4. Southport "Access for All" is working with us to deliver Seftons inclusion agenda and making recommendations. I.e. Tactile Voice Activated Notices etc.
5. We are the home of the Generation Club Monthly Disco for people with Additional Needs and Disabilities with Stephen Ball presenter on Maghull Radio. We support local people.
6. We work with the Community Workshop, Props made by people with S.E.N.D.S. (Special Educational Needs and Disability).
7. We are in discussion with Public Health to put Parks as a Prescription for Health and Supporting North West Parks for a National Forum.
8. Princes Trust young people work on projects in conjunction with B.G.C.A.
9. The Association is registered with Dementia Friends.

Financial review and reserves policy.

The financial results for the year are shown on pages 5 to 6. The trustees aim to ensure that the level of reserves held at any time would be sufficient to enable the charity to continue for the short term in the event of any significant fall in income.

Risk management.

The trustees review the major risks which the charity faces on a regular basis, and are also bound by local authority dictate.
BGCA is fully covered by Public Liability insurance (£10m).

Public benefit.

The charity trustees confirm that they have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission in exercising their powers or duties.

A review of the Associations objectives, activities and achievements since formation is included, also the Finance Statements and independent examiners report.

David Cobham. (Chairman)

For and on behalf of the Trustees. (A.G.M. April 2020)

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of
BOTANIC GARDENS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
For the year ended 31 December 2019**

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2019 which are set out on pages 5 to 6.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for the year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination no matter has come to my attention;

- 1 which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 130 of the 2011 Act, and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Acthave not been met, nor
- 2 to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

**O J Grills Esq FCA
J A Fell & Co
Chartered Accountants
40 Houghton Street
Southport
PR9 0PQ**

Date :

**BOTANIC GARDENS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
FINANCIAL STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2019
GENERAL & RESTRICTED FUNDS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNT**

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2019 Total	2018 Total
RECEIPTS				
Regular donations and subscriptions	380	-	380	2,420
Donations for public toilet	-	4,368	4,368	4,142
Events	2,988	-	2,988	1,876
Fernery & Aviary	2,175	-	2,175	3,278
Flowers & Gardens	23,975	-	23,975	7,316
T3 Grant	-	-	-	1,336
Total Receipts	29,518	4,368	33,886	20,366
PAYMENTS				
Toiletries	-	447	447	850
Toilet Maintenance	-	343	343	1,228
Fernery	1,480	2,000	3,480	1,625
Gardening expenses	7,717	-	7,717	8,937
Printing	191	-	191	176
Insurance	443	-	443	383
Repairs & Maintenance	80	-	80	1,203
Miscellaneous Expenses	1,068	-	1,068	912
Events	1,622	744	2,366	745
Total Payments	12,601	3,534	16,134	16,058
Excess of Receipts over payments	16,918	834	17,752	4,308
Total Funds at 1 January 2019	20,733	11,670	32,403	28,095
Total Funds at 31 December 2019	37,651	12,504	50,154	32,403

**BOTANIC GARDENS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
FINANCIAL STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2019
STATEMENT OF ASSETS & LIABILITIES**

	2019	2018
	£	£
CASH FUNDS		
Bank Account Main	38,456	21,539
Bank Account Toilet	11,698	10,864
Total bank current and deposit accounts	50,154	32,403
This figure is made up by		
Unrestricted	37,651	20,733
Toilet fund	12,504	11,670
	50,154	32,403
ASSETS RETAINED FOR THE USE OF THE CHARITY		
Laptop- 2017	520	520
Gala Tents- 2017	624	624
	1,144	1,144

NOTES

1. The financial statements have been prepared using the Receipts and Payments basis.

Approved by the Trustees on.....2020 and signed on their behalf

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David C Cobham
Chairman

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Margaret V Brown
Treasurer